

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 24, 25, 31-46 and 50 are pending in the present application, of which claims 25, 35, 39, 41 and 43 have been withdrawn.

Claims 24, 31-34, 36-38, 45, 46, and 50 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) over Swanson, et al. (US 5,582,609) in view of Myers (US 5,716,397). Claim 24 has been amended to recite "wherein a portion of the forming element is configured to be removable after implantation of the elongate body within the coronary sinus while a remaining portion of the forming element is contained within the elongate body." In contrast, Swanson and Myers fail to teach or suggest the noted limitations of claim 24.

Swanson et al. is directed to a system having curvilinear electrode elements for forming large lesions in body tissue. Referring to FIGS. 1 and 2, Swanson et al. discloses a flexible ablating element 10 that is carried by a catheter 12 with a handle 16. A steering mechanism 18 bends the ablating element 10 in two opposite directions by pulling two wires, which are right and left wires 24. *See also FIGS. 27 and 28.* Swanson does not teach or suggest that any part of the flexible ablating element 10 including any of the two steering wires is removable.

Referring to FIGS. 4 and 5 of Myers, an annuloplasty ring is shown having a rectangular inner core 12 of radio-opaque silicone rubber which is radially completely flexible so as to allow a surgeon to monitor the implant after surgery. In order to prevent the cloth from bunching or pleating when the implant sutures are tied off, the ring further includes a stiffener 28, which extends around the entire ring. After the ring is sutured to the valve annulus, the stiffener 28 is completely pulled out of the ring by a surgeon pulling on the grasping portion 39. (*See col. 3, lines 25-35*). Thus, Myers fails to teach or suggest a forming element wherein a portion of the forming element is configured to be removable after implantation of the elongate body within the coronary sinus while a remaining portion of the forming element is contained within the elongate body.

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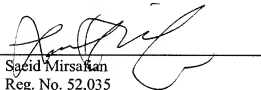
For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claims 24, 31-34, 36-38, 45, 46, and 50 are patentable over Swanson in view of Myers.

Claims 40, 42, 44, and 46 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swanson in view of Myers and further in view of Goldsteen (US 6,206,912). Because claim 24 is patentable over Swanson in view of Myers, Claims 40, 42, 44 and 46 are also patentable over Swanson in view of Myers and Goldsteen.

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,
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